

Retiree News

A Supplement to the Desert Airman

Friday, Jan. 30, 2004

Notes to Know

Retiree Appreciation

The next Davis-Monthan Air Force Base Retiree Appreciation Day, hosted by the base Retiree Activities Office, is March 10 at The Mirage Officers' Club from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hear from speakers regarding topics including national legislation, health care, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the Commissary as well as other services on D-M and in the area. The speaker will be retired Lt. Gen. Donald Peterson, the Co-chair of the Air Force Retiree Council. For more information, or to reserve your space, contact the Retiree Activities Office at 228-5100 or retired@dm.af.mil.

RAO needs volunteers

The Retiree Activities Office needs volunteers. Those with four hours free weekly should contact the RAO and indicate interests and talents for volunteer service. If the RAO doesn't have placements of interest to you, you will be referred to other agencies such as family services, the medical clinic or the Veterans Administration; all of whom appreciate willing volunteers. Contact the RAO at 228-5100 and leave a message, send an e-mail to retired@dm.af.mil or visit 5345 East Madera Street.

Pharmacy renovations

The long anticipated renovation of the 355th Medical Clinic pharmacy will soon be completed. Expect a larger pharmacy with different procedures designed to improve patient education and safety. Watch the *Desert Airman* for further information about how to best use the "new" pharmacy.

Society of Military Widows

The Society of Military Widows will meet Feb. 21, March 27 and April 24 for lunch and a general meeting at The Mirage Officers' Club. Widows of all services whose husbands died on active duty or in retirement are invited to join the society. Call Luise Bell at 663-0279 for reservations one week before the meeting. The cost for lunch is \$13. Members of the clubs receive

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VITA Offers Free Tax Assistance

Free income tax assistance, preparation and electronic filing are available now through April 15 from the base Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Office. Appointments through Feb. 13 are reserved for active-duty members and their spouses.

The VITA office is staffed by trained volunteers and is a joint activity of the Davis-Monthan Retiree Activities Office and the 355th Wing Staff Judge Advocate.

Taxpayers should bring the following items when visiting the VITA office for tax preparation: Social Security card or record of Social Security number; names and birth dates of taxpayer,

spouse and dependents; the federal (and state, if applicable) tax package the individual received in the mail; Forms W-2, 1099-R and other statements of reportable income such as Form SSA-1099; all appropriate expense information like medical, home mortgage interest, real estate taxes, charitable contributions and child care expenses, information on rental property and investment sales, applicable powers of attorney; and a copy of the 2002 federal (and state) tax return. For direct deposit of refunds, a blank check or proof of bank routing number and

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Fam Camp offers more than parking

By Retired Col. Rita Gengler

Have you ever driven by the Fam Camp and wondered who stays there, is it ever empty, and would it be a type of travel you'd be interested in? I asked and found out a few things about the Fam Camp. Ninety nine percent of Fam Camp residents are retirees and their families. In the winter time the camp is usually full and in the summer it is 25 to 60 percent full.

The Davis-Monthan Air Force Base Fam Camp has 129 full hookup spaces that include

water, electric and sewer. Up to 125 over-flow parking sites without hookups are also available when the camp is full. Those in overflow sites are the waiting list for the regular camp.

Fam Camp facilities include a bathhouse, self-serve laundry and office with lounge area. DSL high speed Internet is available in the lounge.

No reservations are taken. Space is assigned on a first come, first served basis.

According to Ken Briles, Fam Camp manager,

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Scholarships give families college options

Now is the time to look for grant or loan money for college for the fall of 2004. Some scholarships are available only to children of active-duty, retired and deceased military members.

The Military Officers Association of America (formerly The Retired Officer's Association) has scholarships for which children of all ranks can apply. Applicants must be under age 24 and working toward their first undergraduate degree. Applications must be post marked by March 1 for consideration for the 2004 to 2005 school term. Applications and further information can be found on MOAA's Web site at www.moaa.org or by calling 1-800-234-6622.

The Air Force Aid Society awards \$1,500 grants to Air Force family members. Applications are available at the family support center, Building 3210. For more information, call 228-5690 or 228-3891.

The Air Force Services Club Membership

Scholarship Program provides deserving club/family members an opportunity to compete for \$10,000 in cash scholarships. Current members of Air Force officers and enlisted clubs are eligible to apply and compete for \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 awards paid to the top three nominees. Application instructions can be picked up at the clubs. For more information, call 228-5950.

The Commissary and the Fisher House Foundation sponsor the Scholarships for Military Children program. Applications are available at the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base Commissary or can be found at www.commissaries.com.

The Officer's Spouses Club and the Enlisted Spouses Association and the local chapter of the MOAA also sponsor scholarships every year. High School counselor's offices also have further information.

Volunteers receive recognition

One hundred twenty eight Davis-Monthan retiree and family member volunteers are recognized for their work during 2003. (2002 tax year Volunteer Income Tax Assistance volunteers were recognized in the April 2003 newsletter.) The efforts of the following listed individuals, who worked anywhere from a few to hundreds of hours, are greatly appreciated. The work was done at the Retiree Activities Office information desk, the visitor's center, the newsletter, retiree orientation, on the RAO executive board, in the pharmacies and other sections of the medical clinic. If any person or agency was omitted, call the Retiree Activities Office at 228-5100.

Robert Ahern
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Arnalda Alwood
Angie Anduaga
Dino Areostatico
Hyla Arnold
Marilyn Ashby
Skip Barkley
William Bass
Gordon Beck
Rosemary Beck
Michael Bevz
Grace Block
Geri Bodycombe
Marilyn Bol
Charles Bollenberg
Sheilah Bowen
Barbara Boyer
James Britt

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Don Campbell
Debbie Carter
Delores Chmelir
Katherine Clark
Keith Connolly
Robert Cook
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Margaret Croteau
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Shirley Degan
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Georgiana Douglass
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John Dunning
Bill Elliot
Mary Estrada

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John Guldán
Augustine Gustilo
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Jasmina Herring
Patricia Hetzel

Rita Hoemke
Red Hollander
Ruby Hooper
Elizabeth Hudson
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Oscar Imer
John Jacobsen
Chuck Klees
Clayton Klomp
Mary Kolasito
Edward Kuhn
Joyce Lebda
Garland Love
Gail MacDonald
John Macinnes
Ted Marks
Dina Marshal
Ron Mauter
Pat May
Roger McCreight
Frank McKenna
Yamileth
McWilliams
Ted Merry
Annie Morris
Joy Newman
Mary Nielson
Bob Nottoli
Elizabeth O'Leary
Teresa Pacheco
Betty Patrick
Janet Pelland

Joseph Pelland
Carl Petersen
Sylvia Phaneuf
Shirley Phillips
Alfred Quarto
Rudolph Ricciardi
Dennis Richards
LaRoyce Riley
Marlene Rosin
Anna Rueby
Carolee Ryan
Dave Ryan
Lorraine Sawicki
Don Seedle
Suzanne Shafe
Patricia Shecter
Sandra Sherman
Marie Smith
Olive Smith
Anita Southard
Robert Speer
Sybille Stanford
Joseph Steiner
Delma Jean Stevens
Myles Stewart
Edward Stierman
Leone Sweedo
Joe Tannarome
Ray Teran
Ilse Thomas
Gisella Urwin
Bill Vanderpool
Donald Vivian
Erna Williams
Henry Woehr
Fred Zimmermann

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discounts on lunch. Those not wanting lunch may come after for the meeting and program. The SMW also meets the second Tuesday each month for a birthday luncheon. Members with birthdays in the current month are especially encouraged to attend. For more information on the SMW, call Suzanne Shafe at 579-0789.

Use of old flags

If you aren't sure what to do with worn out flags, bring them to the Retiree Activities Office at 5345 East Madera Street and volunteers will see to their destruction. You can donate interment flags to the VA. They use donated flags on the Avenue of Flags on special holidays. For more information, call the Voluntary Service Resources Management Service Line at 629-1822.

Veterans Services new location

The Arizona Department of Veterans Services moved in October to 626 North Craycroft Ave., #116 which is on the corner of 5th Street and Craycroft Ave. The number is 207-4960.

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Retirees get answers on pharmacy benefits **VITA**

The number one question asked by members of the military retiree community concerning the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 has been: How does it affect my pharmacy benefits?

The simple answer is that for most uniformed services beneficiaries, it doesn't.

For older Americans, the most significant aspect of the new bill signed into law by President Bush Dec. 8 is the fact that it introduces an outpatient prescription drug benefit. However, the TRICARE pharmacy benefits will continue as a separate program.

On the other hand, uniformed services beneficiaries should be aware of the provision as it could come into play in the future if they lose

their TRICARE eligibility. For example, eligibility is lost when a member's widow or widower remarries a person who is not entitled to TRICARE benefits.

According to TRICARE officials, the TRICARE pharmacy benefit provides excellent coverage and wide availability of services through military facilities, retail pharmacies and mail order.

Therefore, it is likely that the vast majority of uniformed services beneficiaries will not find it advantageous to enroll in the new Medicare pharmacy benefit. Individuals who think it could affect them in the future can obtain more details at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>. (Information courtesy www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afretire/Medicare_Drugs.htm)

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account number is required.

To use the electronic filing system for a joint return, both spouses must be present to sign the IRS declaration form.

Taxpayers may get direct deposit refunds by filing their 2003 returns either electronically or using paper forms. The electronic filing system normally permits direct deposit to a taxpayer's bank account within two weeks. Direct deposit on mailed returns usually takes longer.

The electronic filing system also allows those that owe the government money and file in February and March to wait until, but no later than, April 15 to pay.

The VITA office has a limited supply of federal and Arizona tax forms and instructions. Individuals requiring forms from any other state should contact that state to get the appropriate forms. Most federal and state forms are now available on the Internet. Any IRS forms and publications may also be ordered from the IRS by calling 1-800-829-3676.

VITA, located in Building 4310, Room 109, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. To make an appointment, call 228-3489 after Feb. 9.

Camp

Continued from Page 1

up to 14-day stays are allowed when the camp is full. Then guests must rotate out for one to five days, depending on occupancy level, before they can return. The charge for full hook-up sites is \$14 per night and \$4 per night for

overflow parking. The overflow parking charge includes use of showers and the sanitary facilities. Although the camp is located near the Wilmot Gate, Briles advises guests to use the Swan gate when it is open because motor homes can more easily be maneuvered through the barriers at that gate. Of course those arriving when other gates are closed have to use the

Craycroft Road Gate. Once guests are familiar with gate hours and are using a smaller vehicle, entry and departure by any available gate is fine.

The D-M Fam Camp office is located at 6170 Quijota Boulevard, Building 6015 and is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 520-747-9144 or visit dmservicesonline.com for more information.

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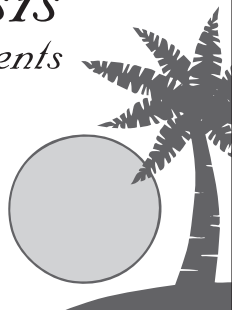
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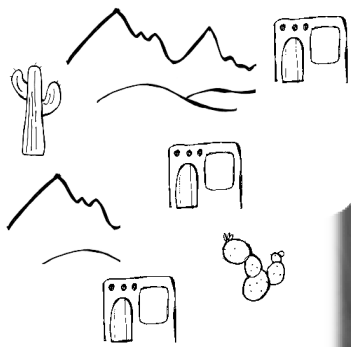
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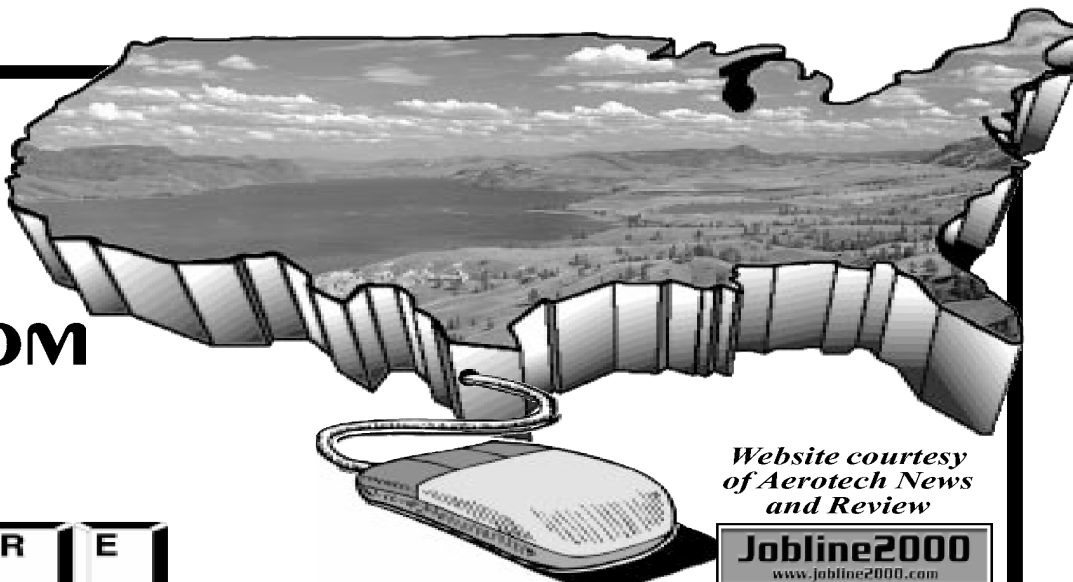
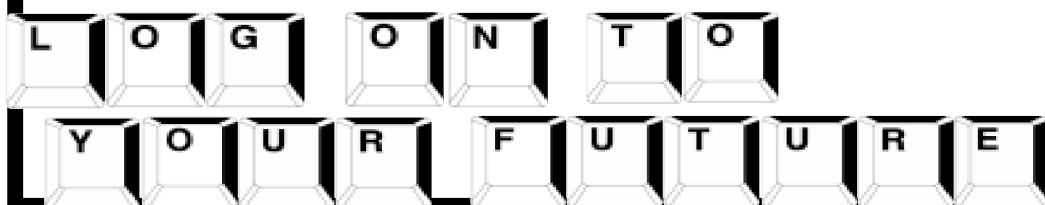


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